IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of   :

Yutaka MASUDA   :

Serial No. [NEW]   :   **Attn: Application Branch**

Filed February 28, 2002   :   **Attorney Docket No.2002-0304A**

METHOD FOR QUICKLY RETRIEVING   :
APPROXIMATE COLOR OF METALLIC
PAINT COLOR   :

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
    Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In the interest of compact prosecution and to reduce PTO filing fees, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.

Please add the following new claims:

7. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.

8. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.

9. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.

10. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.

REMARKS

The above amendment is presented to eliminate multiple dependent claims, thereby reducing PTO filing fees.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is entitled **"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made"**.

Favorable action on the merits is now requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Yutaka MASUDA

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. **(Amended)** The method according to [any one of claims] <u>claim</u> 1 [to 5], wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.